

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190432
ORIGIN SSM-01

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DRAFTED BY SSM:J T MCANDREW:MA
APPROVED BY SSM:J T MCANDREW
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-----107451 112335Z /65

P 112133Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION SINAI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (JONES, WILLIAM M)

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL JONES

1. DURING THREE-HOUR BRIEFING ON SSM/SFM OPERATIONS AUGUST 10, WILLIAM M. JONES, GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, ADVISED HE PLANNING PRIVATE VISIT TO ISRAEL AUGUST 24 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1. IN VIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES, HE SOUGHT ASSISTANCE IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO VISIT SFM AUGUST 26 OR 27. SPECIFICALLY, HE REQUESTED TRANSPORTATION FROM TEL AVIV TO SFM BASE CAMP AND RETURN AND EMBASSY'S HELP IN OBTAINING GOI AND UN PERMISSIONS FOR THE VISIT.

2. JONES INQUIRED ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF AIR TRAVEL TO "AIRPORT" NEAR THE BUFFER ZONE. WE EXPLAINED THAT BIR
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GIFGAFA IS AN IDF MILITARY BASE AND THAT SFM PERSONNEL AND GUESTS USE LAND TRANSPORT TO VISIT THE BASE CAMP.

3. AS JONES WILL BE ON VACATION FOR FEW DAYS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR TEL AVIV, WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY RESPONSE REGARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS VISIT TO SFM. WE ALSO TOLD HIM HE SHOULD CONTACT EMBASSY'S PAO, DAVID HITCHCOCK, AS

SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN TEL AVIV.

4. FOR SFM: THE MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE INCLUDES, INTER ALIA, "RECEIVING AND EXAMINING REPORTS OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE U.S. AND OF SUBMITTING SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HOUSE AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUBJECT MATTER OF SUCH REPORTS;" AND "STUDYING THE OPERATION OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AT ALL LEVELS WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING ITS ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY." JONES IS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH GAO'S JUNE 77 REPORT "AN EVALUATION OF THE U.S. EARLY WARNING SYSTEM IN THE SINAI" AND ASKED MANY SEARCHING QUESTIONS ON SFM'S OPERATIONS, STAFFING, COSTS, RELATIONS WITH THE UN, EGYPT AND ISRAEL, USG-CONTRACTOR RELATIONS, AND FUTURE PLANS. WE ARE POUCHING MEMCON. CHRISTOPHER

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